



Peak Water Rates in Effect

Peak residential water rates are in effect from **May 16 through September 15** each year. Peak rates incorporate a three-tiered rate structure with progressively higher rates as water consumption increases.

2009 Residential Water Rates

Water Usage	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits	City of Shoreline
Off-Peak Usage (Sept. 16 – May 15)	\$3.25/ccf	\$3.70/ccf	\$3.95/ccf
Peak Usage (May 16 – Sept. 15)			
First-Tier: Up to 10 ccf in 60 days	\$3.58/ccf	\$4.09/ccf	\$4.34/ccf
Second-Tier: Next 26 ccf in 60 days	\$4.17/ccf	\$4.75/ccf	\$5.05/ccf
Third-Tier: Over 36 ccf in 60 days	\$10.62/ccf	\$12.11/ccf	\$12.88/ccf

Note: One ccf equals 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons of water.

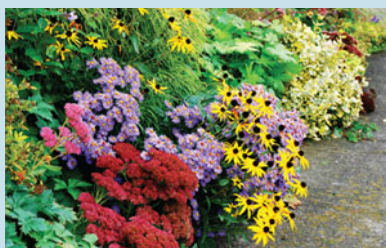
Historically, roughly one out of 10 residential customers has some consumption at the third-tier level. Third-tier water rates affect single-family residential and duplex customers who use more than 36 ccf for a 60-day billing period (or more than 18 ccf for a 30-day billing period). (The thresholds for a duplex are double the single-family level.)

Higher summer rates

Although Seattle generally has plenty of water in the wintertime, we have less precipitation during the summer when demand is highest. During the summer, we depend on water stored in our mountain reservoirs to meet customer demand while leaving enough water in the rivers for fish. Higher summer water rates encourage customers to use water wisely.

Water conservation

From May through September, water use in our region increases 35 to 45 percent, primarily to water lawns and gardens. Experts estimate that 30 percent or more of this water is wasted due to evaporation, runoff, or over watering. For suggestions about smart watering practices, contact the expert staff at the Garden Hotline at **(206) 633-0224**.



Help Paying Your Bill

If your household income is 70 percent of the state median, you are eligible to apply for the Low-Income Rate Assistance program, which offers Seattle residents a 50 percent reduction on their utility bills for up to 18 months. Income requirements are listed below. Customers living in subsidized housing cannot qualify for the discount.

Program applications and information can be found at **www.peoplepoint.info** or by calling **(206) 684-0268**.

Income Guidelines*

Number in Household	Total Monthly Income
1	\$2,302
2	\$3,011
3	\$3,719
4	\$4,427

*Income limits change every January 1. Program participants who are still eligible can re-apply for additional assistance.

Keep Meters Clear

Blossoming lawns and gardens can hinder utility meter reading. You can help by trimming the grass, weeds, brush and branches around your meter box. By doing so, you help ensure precise meter reading and accurate utility bills.



Seattle Water Makes the Grade

The 2008 Drinking Water Quality Report has been released and the findings show that Seattle continues to have some of the best tasting, purest-source water in the nation.



The report, a federal requirement for every water utility in the nation, shows that Seattle's tap water is also one of the best deals around, costing less than one-third of one cent per gallon. Compare that to your favorite bottled water which costs around 79 cents per pint. Bottled water is not any more pure or safe than Seattle tap water.

There is also a major environmental impact from purchasing bottled water. Nationwide, plastic bottles require 17-million barrels of oil to produce. Most end up in the garbage, not in recycling, and to top it off, it takes three liters of water to produce one liter of plastic bottled water. A good idea is to purchase a reusable water bottle - lightweight stainless steel is the best - and drink Seattle tap water.

You Can Stop Graffiti

Tired of graffiti in your neighborhood? Seattle Public Utilities' Red Wagon Paint Out Program provides free materials and training to volunteers who want to remove unsightly graffiti in their neighborhood. The program is specifically geared toward graffiti removal and prevention on private property. Supplies provided in your red wagon include: latex paint, paint rollers, a



roller screen and bucket, gloves, cleanup rags, and safety vests. Call **(206) 684-7790** today for your red wagon. To report graffiti, call **(206) 684-7587**. For graffiti in progress, call **911**.

Penguins Save Water at Zoo

Seattle Public Utilities helps many customers conserve water and lower their utility bills, but our partnership with some tuxedoed desert-dwelling birds from Peru is probably our most unique.



SPU and the Saving Water Partnership have helped the Woodland Park Zoo to build a water recycling and purification system for the zoo's newest residents – 20 endangered Humboldt penguins – that will save approximately three million gallons of water each year.

Water from the penguins' pool will filter through a constructed wetland before returning purified water to the penguin pool. No water will enter the sewer system. In addition, rainwater collected from the exhibit roof will replace pool water lost naturally through evaporation, and rainwater that falls onto adjacent paths will filter back into the ground with the wetland water.

The Humboldt penguin exhibit will open at Woodland Park Zoo on Saturday May 2, 2009.

For rebates and tips on how you can save water at home, visit www.savingwater.org or call **(206) 684-SAVE (684-7283)**. Visit www.zoo.org for more information about Woodland Park Zoo.

Credit and Collection Changes

Seattle Public Utilities no longer hand delivers shut-off notices to customers for delinquent balances prior to water shutoff. These notices will now be mailed to our customers. Learn more online at www.seattle.gov/util and search "SPU Credit and Collection Policy" or call **(206) 684-3000**.

